

Mansfield Commission on Aging
Minutes
Monday, March 10, 2003 2:30 PM - Mansfield Senior Center

Members: Please call Social Services Dept. at 429-3315 if you cannot attend.

PRESENT: Ruth Gordon (MACNPD), Bob Goldsborough, Elizabeth Norris, Phil Secker, Kevin Grunwald (staff), Beth Acebo (Juniper Hill Village), Mary Thatcher (MACNPD), Luanne Krystiniak (Wright's Village), Susanna Thomas (Chair), Carol Phillips, Rose Kurcinik (WRCCC Dial-A-Ride), Marilyn Gerling (staff), Carol McMillan, Raymond Moore.

REGRETS: Barbara Ivry, Nora Stevens, Jean Kenny

I. Call to Order: 2:33 PM

II. Appointment of Recording Secretary

Kevin Grunwald was appointed to serve as acting Recording Secretary

III. Acceptance of Minutes of the February 10, 2003 meeting

Corrections: Please note that Carol McMillan (not Carol Phillips) will contact the phone company; Susanna Thomas is the one that reported on Dial-A-Ride. Motion made and approved to accept the minutes as corrected.

IV. Correspondence - Chair and Staff

S. Thomas reported that CT Coalition on Aging has requested local groups to help set legislative priorities: low cost prescription drugs, contain high cost of health insurance premiums, full range of homecare service, protect assets for those needs homecare and nursing home care.

B. Acebo provided information about a company named Utopia, a state licensed assisted living provider that is attempting to provide Assisted Living services at Juniper Hill. This will include nursing and homecare services on a fee-for-service basis.

V. Optional Reports on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program - J. Kenny: in her absence Marilyn distributed a copy of Jean Ann Kenny's report. Wellness services include counseling, screening and referral.

B. Social, Recreational and Educational:

Senior Center – Marilyn Gerling:

Senior Center Assoc. - Tim Quinn

Marilyn distributed copies of her report and reviewed highlights. Tax assistance will be provided through the middle of April. The computer in the lobby of the Senior Center is available to anyone who wants to use it.

C. Housing

Juniper Hill, Jensen's Park, Other:

Bob Goldsborough provided information on Veteran's Services, and has scheduled a presentation with Mr. Woodbury from the Veteran's counseling services of WRCC.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations:

Town Plan of Conservation and Development – Carol Phillips: Carol reported that this has shifted from a citizen committee to the planning and zoning commission for an initial draft phase. She will continue to stay involved.

Town Community Center – Ray Moore: Ray reported that they are still shooting for a July opening; Curt Vincente has offered to speak to the Commission on the fee schedule. We will make some applications available at the Senior Center.

VI. Old Business:

Ongoing study of Transportation needs and services –

Guest speaker: Rose Kurcinik, Transportation Director of WRCC, and Claire, Scheduling Coordinator - "Dial-a-Ride and the ADA (American Disabilities Act)":

Rose is the Director of Transportation, and is employed by Windham Regional Community Council, which is an umbrella agency that provides a variety of social services. Transportation services include:

Dial-A-Ride, which is on the road 20 hours a day. They also operate "Project Ride" in the 21 towns for Welfare to Work recipients and the Rt. 32 corridor. The ADA service provides vans for people who can't use fixed route buses; it is based on the fixed route service. They are mandated by the State to provide these services, including elderly transport services. They work in partnership with the Windham transit district. Ten towns participate in the Dial-A-Ride service, and riders make contributions as well. The costs of operating this service are rising, and there continue to be funding reductions. Ridership on the fixed route includes both students and employees coming to the University to work. ADA service is limited by State funding to provide transportation within the ten-town Windham region. By law no rides can be prioritized, but medical services are always a priority. Rides need to be scheduled with 48-hour notice. Transportation can be provided for up to 30 clients per day in wheelchairs. Eligibility for ADA transportation is that riders need to be ADA-certified as being physically or mentally impaired in a way that prevents them from using fixed route service; they also need to be within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the fixed route service to be eligible. Dial-A-ride receives Senior Resources AAA funding, which requires that they make riders aware that donations are accepted. The cost per client is calculated by the hour for ADA service, and by the ride for Dial-A-Ride services. Dial-A-Ride is a sub-contractor of the Windham Region Transit District.

VII. New Business:

S. Thomas has spoken to Bill Rosen about the status of the Assisted Living initiative in Town. He has offered to speak to the Commission at the April meeting. Howard

Raphaelson has agreed to take over Bill's role on this initiative. It was agreed that Bill will be invited to speak in April, along with Howard Raphaelson and Jane Ann Bobbitt. It was also suggested that Curt Vincente be invited to speak to the Commission in May on the Community Center.

VIII. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM

(the next meeting is set for Monday, April 14, 2003 at 2:30, Mansfield Town Hall, Conference Room C)

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Grunwald